

SYRINGE BARREL AND CYLINDER HOLDER

This is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No.
10/211,099 filed July 31, 2002.

1. Field of the Invention:

5 The present invention relates to a syringe and a cylinder holder which are suitable for injection at high injection pressure using a driving mechanism such as an automatic injection device.

2. Description of the Related Art:

10 Syringes are used for injection of liquid in various fields typically including a medical field. Injection of a chemical solution having high viscosity such as a contrast agent for Xray CT imaging and a contrast agent for MRI (magnetic resonance imaging apparatus) requires high pressure, causes
15 difficulty in manual handling, and makes intense jobs. Therefore, it is general to effect injection using a mechanical syringe driving mechanism such as an automatic injection apparatus and the like. Fig. 13 shows a syringe 20 to be mounted on such an automatic injecting apparatus 10. The
20 automatic injecting apparatus 10 comprises a cylinder holder 11, a piston holder 12, and a motor inside (not shown), and the cylinder holder 11 fixes a syringe barrel 21 by holding a flange 22 and the piston holder 12 holds a piston flange 24. A piston 23 can be moved relative to the syringe barrel
25 21 by progressing or regressing the piston holder 12 by a motor, to effect injection (discharge of liquid from the

syringe) or suction of liquid. Fig. 14 shows the syringe 20 mounted on the automatic injecting apparatus 10.

Further, as shown in Fig. 15, when a syringe of smaller size is mounted on this automatic injecting apparatus, the syringe barrel 21 is mounted on a dismountable adaptor 13 (functions as a cylinder holder for the syringe) which is further mounted on the automatic injecting apparatus 10. Fig. 16 shows the syringe 20 mounted on the automatic injecting apparatus 10.

Fig. 18 provides detailed drawings of the adaptor 13 ((a) is a plan view, and (b) is a rear side view)). The syringe barrel 21 can be held by fitting the flange 22 of the syringe barrel 21 into a flange insertion groove 14 of the adaptor 13. For the mounting, as shown in Fig. 17 (a), the flange 22 is fitted into the flange groove 14 while directing a flange cut portion 25 vertically. Then, the flange is rotated by 90° to be fixed so that it is not disconnected. Fig. 17 (b) is a view showing the rotating process, and Fig. 17 (c) is a view showing the use position.

In the operational position, the arc of the flange is engaged with the arc of the flange insert groove so as not to slip off in the upward direction. However, to prevent the slip-off, it is necessary to secure a certain level of the arc length of the flange insert groove and therefore the opening length of the flange insert groove cannot be made large. At the time of mounting the syringe, if the difference between the opening length L' and the length of the flange

cut part W can not be made large as shown in Figure 17(a), the mounting operation will need time and effort.

Further, the flange thickness and the flange insertion groove width are so designed to give slight clearance between the flange and flange groove for enabling smooth mounting of the syringe barrel. The reason for this design is also that if the clearance is designed to zero completely, mounting may be sometimes impossible due to certain extent production error to be taken into consideration because the syringe barrel and the cylinder holder (including the adaptor) are usually formed of different materials. Consequently, slight backlash and play in mounted condition is inevitable. However, if there is an error in the mounting procedure, the syringe may sometimes be raised from the right position. If injection of a contrast agent and chemical solution is conducted when fitting in such slight clearance is displaced, the piston shall be pushed under condition in which the flange 22 is inclined relative to the flange insertion groove 14, as shown schematically in Fig. 19, and the total pressure is concentrated only on a part of the flange, and resultantly, in the worst case, the flange may be occasionally broken particularly from the base part.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been achieved in view of the above described problems, and its object is to provide a syringe barrel a cylinder holder, where the syringe is not easily broken in injecting liquid of high viscosity at high pressure
5 and can be easily mounted.

An aspect of the present invention is directed to a syringe barrel, comprising a guide projection on a front surface of a flange.

The syringe barrel may further comprise a press
10 projection formed on the rear surface of the flange; a tip of the press projection being capable of compressed to press the flange against a front sidewall surface of a flange insert groove when the flange is inserted into the flange insert groove formed in a cylinder holder and is fitted in a use
15 position.

Another aspect of the present invention is directed to a cylinder holder for holding a syringe barrel having a flange, the syringe barrel comprising a guide projection on a front surface of the flange, the cylinder holder comprising: a flange
20 insert groove for holding a flange of a syringe barrel and a guide groove formed on a front sidewall surface of the flange insert groove; the guide groove being capable of guiding a guide projection formed on a front surface of a flange of a syringe barrel.

In the present invention, the guide projection is preferably formed in arcuate shape. Also, the guide groove is preferably formed in arcuate shape. "Arcuate shape" generally means that at least a portion of one line of outward
5 form is a part of a circle. In the preferred embodiments, portions of two lines opposite to each other are the parts of concentric circles. The examples will be described by showing the embodiments.

The above-mentioned syringe barrel and the
10 above-mentioned cylinder holder may be used in combination for a chemical solution injection system.

The above described syringe barrel may be used in combination with a syringe piston for a pre-filled syringe filled with a chemical solution. The chemical solution may
15 include a contrast medium.

In the present invention, the term "cylinder holder" means one which can hold a syringe barrel by a groove, and when a syringe barrel is mounted on an adaptor before being set in an injecting apparatus, the term "cylinder holder"
20 is construed to include such adaptor. The cylinder holder is usually incorporated in an automatic injecting apparatus, or integrated with an automatic injecting apparatus as one body.

25 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the state in which a syringe barrel is mounted on a cylinder holder.

Figure 2 shows an adaptor (cylinder holder), wherein (a) is a plan view from a mounting direction of the syringe, and (b) is a side cross sectional view in which an A-A cross section of (a) is seen from rear side.

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of a flange insert groove of an adaptor.

Figure 4 is a side view of the flange surface of a syringe barrel seen from a front side, wherein

(a) shows a frontal view (whole view) of the flange, and

(b) shows an enlarged view of part B of (a).

Figure 5 is a cross sectional view of a syringe, wherein

(a) shows an F-F cross section of Figures 4 and 11,

(b) shows a C-C cross section of Figure 4 and an E-E cross section of Figure 11.

Figure 6 schematically shows the state of mounting a syringe on an adaptor, wherein

(a) shows a state before mounting, and

(b) shows a state after mounting, of being rotated partway to a fixing location.

Figure 7 shows a comparison between an opening length of an adaptor of the present invention and that of a conventional one, wherein

(a) shows an adaptor of the present invention, and
(b) shows a conventional adaptor.

Figure 8 shows an embodiment of the syringe of the present invention, wherein

5 (a) is a side view of the syringe, and
 (b) is a rear view of the flange seen from rear side
the syringe.

Figures 9(a) and (b) show examples of the press projection.

10 Figure 10 shows the state in which a flange is inserted into a flange insert groove and fixed.

Figure 11 is a front side view to show a flange surface of a different example of the syringe barrel, wherein

 (a) is a front view (whole view) of the flange, and
15 (b) is an enlarged view of the part D of (a).

Figure 12 shows a different example of the adaptor (a cross section corresponding to the A-A cross section of Figure 2).

20 Figure 13 shows a state of mounting a syringe on an automatic injection device.

Figure 14 shows a state of a syringe which is mounted on an automatic injection device.

Figure 15 shows a state of mounting a syringe on an automatic injection device using an adaptor.

Figure 16 shows a state of a syringe which is mounted on an automatic injection device.

Figure 17 schematically shows holding and positioning of a syringe by means of the cylinder holder (adaptor) of the automatic injection device shown in Figures 13 and 15.

Figure 18 is an enlarged view of an adaptor.

Figure 19 schematically shows a state in which the flange of a syringe barrel is displaced floating up from the cylinder holder.

- 10 Description of Symbols:
- 10... automatic injection device
- 11... cylinder holder
- 12... piston holder
- 13... adaptor
- 15 14... flange insert groove
- 21... syringe barrel
- 22... flange
- 23... piston
- 24... piston flange
- 20 25... flange cut part
- 31 ... syringe barrel
- 32... flange
- 33, 33a, 33b... guide projection
- 34, 34a to 34d... guide projection
- 25 40... adaptor

- 41... guide groove
- 42... guide groove
- 51... press projection
- 52... reinforcing rib
- 5 52a... radial part of reinforcing rib
- 52b... concentric part of reinforcing rib

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1 shows the state in which a flange 32 of a syringe
10 barrel 31 is fitted in a flange insert groove 14 of an adaptor
40 (cylinder holder). Figure 2 shows the adaptor 40 in which
Figure 2(a) is a plan view seen from an attaching direction
of the syringe barrel and Figure 2(b) is an A-A cross section
in Figure 2(a) viewed from rear side. Figure 3 is an enlarged
15 cross sectional view of a portion of the flange insert groove
14. A guide groove 41 is formed in an arcuate shape on a
front sidewall surface of the flange insert groove 14 provided
in the adaptor.

In the meantime, Figure 4 shows the flange of the syringe
20 barrel, which is used together with the adaptor, viewed from
the tip side of the syringe ((a) is a whole view of the front
surface and (b) is an enlarged view of the part B of (a)).
As shown in this drawing, the front surface of the flange
32 is provided with arcuate guide projections 33 (33a, 33b).
25 An F-F cross section of Figure 4 is shown in Figure 5(a),

and a C-C cross section in Figure 5(b). As shown in the cross sectional view of Figure 5(a), the guide projection 33 of this embodiment has a cross section shape in accordance with the guide groove 41 of the adaptor and an arcuate shape in the lengthwise direction, and is adapted to be able to rotate along the guide groove 41 of the adaptor. It is preferable to form the end portion of the guide projection in a longitudinal direction in a tapered shape as shown in Figure 5(b) so as to be smoothly guided into the guide groove.

Figure 6 is a cross sectional view of the flange insert groove seen from rear side showing the mounting of the syringe barrel onto the adaptor. First, as shown in Figure 6(a), the flange 32 is inserted into the flange insert groove 14 while keeping the flange cut part 25 substantially vertical. Thereafter, as shown in Figure 6(b), the guide projection 33 is rotated while being fitted in the guide groove 41 until it reaches the use position.

Referring to Figure 7, the opening length of the flange groove will be described. Figure 7(b) is a conventional adaptor; since it has no guide groove, the arc part of the groove needs to be made large to prevent the flange from slipping out upwardly. For this reason, the opening L' can only be slightly larger than the length of the flange in the flange cut part direction W (see Figure 17). On the other hand, since the adaptor of the present invention shown in

Figure 7(a) can prevent the upward slip off with the guide groove 41, the arc part of the groove can be made short. As a result, the opening length L can be made large and thereby facilitating the mounting operation of the syringe. As a matter of course, the adaptor of the present invention may be arranged such that the length of the arc part of the flange insert groove is as long as those of conventional types to prevent the slipping off of the syringe more securely. But, for general uses, it is preferable to make the opening length large placing higher priority on the operational convenience and workability.

There are no particular restrictions on the cross section shapes of the guide projection and the guide groove of the adaptor as long as they fit with each other easily and the syringe will not slip off upwardly. In the case of the trapezoidal cross section shape shown in Figure 5(a), for example, arrangement may be such that the height h is 1 to 3 mm, the bottom surface width t1 is 1 to 3 mm, and the upper surface width t2 is 0.5 to 2.5 mm. The guide groove may be formed in accordance with this shape. Also the size of guide projection in a longitudinal direction (circumferential direction) may be conveniently made shorter than the opening length of the flange insertion groove while keeping it within a range in which an upward floating up is effectively prevented when the syringe is mounted. For example, for a syringe barrel

with an outer diameter of 30 to 40 mm, the size of guide projection in a longitudinal direction may be 20 to 120 degrees, and preferably 30 to 90 degrees in terms of angles taking the center of barrel as the center of angle.

5 Although the cross section is a trapezoid in this embodiment, it may be a square, a triangular, or etc.

 Preferably, in the present invention, the rear surface of the flange is provided with a press projection. Also in the present invention, by providing a reinforcing rib on the
10 rear surface of the flange, the breakage of the flange may further prevented.

 Figure 8 shows an example of the flange 32 having press projections 51 and reinforcing ribs 52. When the flange is fitted in the use position by inserting it into the flange
15 insert groove, the tip of the press projection is compressed generating elastic force to press the flange forwardly, and thus the flange is firmly secured. As shown in Figure 9(a), the press projection 51 preferably has a narrower width toward the tip to make it more easily deformed by being pressed.
20 The outer cylinder of the syringe is generally formed of a resin such as polypropylene, and the adaptor is formed of ABS, polycarbonate, or the like. Depending on the selection of the material, the cylinder holder side may be arranged to be compressible. When the above described materials are
25 used, the projection of the syringe barrel is compressed.

At this moment, even if the tip of the projection undergoes plastic deformation by compression, a certain level of the compressive force is preserved and therefore the flange is firmly secured by the resiliency.

5 The shape and the height of the projection may be determined taking these materials into account. Generally, it is preferable to arrange such that the distance from the front surface of the flange to the tip of the press projection is larger than the width of the flange insert groove by about
10 0.1 to about 2.5 mm, more preferably about 0.2 to about 1.0 mm. The press projection may have a conical shape as shown in Figure 9(b).

Figure 10 shows the state in which the flange 32 is fitted in the flange groove. The press projection 51 has undergone
15 deformation, thereby pressing the flange 32 against the front surface of the flange groove 14. The position of disposing the press projections 51 is, as shown in Figure 8, preferably a position close to the back side of the guide projection 33 formed on the front surface of the flange.

20 There are no particular restrictions on the shape of the reinforcing ribs, and an example may include a combined shape of a concentric part 52b and a radial part 52a as shown in Figure 8. In this example, since the press projections 51 are formed on the extension of the radial part, the radial

part is deformed accordingly. The press projection may be arranged in other places.

Next, other embodiments of the guide projection will be shown.

5 In the example shown in Figure 11, a guide projection 34, which is shorter than the guide projection shown in Figure 4, is formed in four places. As shown in the enlarged view of Figure 11(b), the end-to-end distance including adjacent two guide projections 34a and 34b is preferably arranged in
10 the same manner as the length of the guide projection 33 in the lengthwise direction shown in Figure 4. The E-E cross sectional view is the same as the one in Figure 5, and arrangement may be made in the same manner as the example of the guide projection of Figure 4. In Figure 11, an example
15 is shown in which a press projection and reinforcing ribs are formed on the rear surface.

 The guide projection may be of a plurality of truncated cones placed in a line in the circumferential direction; in which case, a plurality of truncated cones may be disposed
20 at the positions where the guide projections of Figure 4 are provided.

 As described, in a preferable embodiment of the present invention, the number of the arcuate guide projections may be even number and each half number is symmetrically positioned

on the flange where the two flange cut portions are not provided.

Although, in the above described examples, the guide projection is formed on each side of the flange cut part (top and bottom in Figures 4 and 11), it may be formed on only one side. The guide groove of the adaptor to be used in combination with the guide projection may be open in the top part as with the guide groove 41 shown in Figure 2 or closed as with the guide groove 42 shown in Figure 12. When the top part is closed, the flange can be inserted into the adaptor keeping its guide projection down, and then be rotated until the use position is reached.

The above-described embodiment is one example of the present invention, and it should be noted that various changes can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

As described above, according to the present invention, there can be provided provide a syringe barrel a cylinder holder, where the syringe is not easily broken in injecting liquid of high viscosity at high pressure and can be easily mounted.